

## Message Text

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TAGS: OREP(PELL, CLAIBORNE)

SUBJECT: CODEL PELL

SUMMARY: SENATOR CLAIBORNE PELL VISITED LISBON FEBRUARY 7 THROUGH FEBRUARY 11. HE WAS TOLD GENERALLY THAT THE POLITICAL SITUATION WAS GREATLY IMPROVED AND THAT FOREIGN ASSISTANCE WILL BE NECESSARY IF THE COUNTRY IS TO OVERCOME ITS ECONOMIC CRISIS. THE PRIME MINISTER AND THE MAJOR PARTIES INDICATED SUPPORT FOR AZOREAN AUTONOMY. MOST LEADERS WERE WORRIED ABOUT SOVIET ACTIVITIES IN ANGOLA AND EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT THE US WOULD TAKE A MORE POSITIVE STAND. END SUMMARY

2. SENATOR PELL VISITED LISBON FROM FEBRUARY 7 THROUGH FEBRUARY 11. HE MET WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF THE THREE MAJOR DEMOCRATIC PARTIES, THE CARDINAL PATRIARCH, THE VICE CHIEFS OF STAFF OF THE ARMY AND THE AIR FORCE, ECONOMIC COORDINATOR VASCO VIEIRA DE ALMEIDA, PRIME MINISTER PINHEIRO DE AZEVEDO AND SECRETARY OF STATE MEDEIROS FERREIRA. THE PRESIDENT AND THE FOREIGN MINISTER WERE UNABLE TO SEE THE SENATOR. WE SUSPECT THIS WAS DUE TO SHORT NOTICE, AND THE EMBASSY WAS ONLY ABLE TO ARRANGE AN APPOINTMENT WITH THE PRIME MINISTER BY BYPASSING THE PROTOCOL OFFICE. THE GOP IS BECOMING INCREASINGLY SENSITIVE ABOUT SHORT NOTICE ON CONGRESSIONAL VISITS. THE SENATOR WAS PRINCIPALLY INTERESTED IN INTERNAL DEVELOPMENTS, THE AZORES, AND ANGOLA.

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2. INTERNAL DEVELOPMENTS: UNIFORMLY, THE SENATOR WAS TOLD

THAT THE POLITICAL SITUATION HAS IMPROVED DRAMATICALLY. THE POLITICAL PARTIES VOICED CONFIDENCE THAT THE MILITARY WOULD SUBORINATE THEMSELVES TO CIVILIAN AUTHORITY AND THAT THE LEGISLATIVE ELECTIONS WOULD TAKE PLACE ON SCHEDULE. CONCERN WAS EXPRESSED THAT THE DETERIORATING ECONOMIC SITUATION COULD LEAD TO RENEWED POLITICAL INSTABILITY. THE IMPORTANCE OF US ASSISTANCE WAS EMPHASIZED AND SENATOR PELL RESPONDED AFFIRMATIVELY. ASKED SPECIFICALLY HOW THE US COULD BE OF ASSISTANCE, PRIME MINISTER PINHEIRO DE AZEVEDO EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR PRIOR US AID AND ASKED THAT THE US HELP WITH THE EMERGING PROBLEM OF UP TO 50,000 MOZAMBIKAN REFUGEES.

3. AZORES: IN GENERAL, SENATOR PELL WAS TOLD THAT SENTIMENT FOR INDEPENDENCE IN THE AZORES IS DECREASING, ALTHOUGH ESTIMATES VARIED ON HOW WIDESPREAD THAT SENTIMENT ACTUALLY IS. AZEVEDO, SOARES, SA CARNEIRO AND CDS LEADERS ALL EXPRESSED SUPPORT FOR THE CONCEPT OF AZOREAN AUTONOMY, BUT NONE WAS CLEAR ON WHAT THE MODALITIES OF AUTONOMY MIGHT BE. AZEVEDO STRESSED THE IMPORTANCE OF PROVIDING A SUBSIDY FOR TRANSPORTATION TO THE AZORES. SOARES EMPHASIZED THAT AZOREAN INDEPENDENCE WOULD PLAY INTO THE HANDS OF THE COMMUNISTS ON THE MAINLAND. SECRETARY OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS MEDEIROS FERREIRA SAID THE INDEPENDENCE OF THE AZORES WOULD GIVE A SIGNAL THAT "THE US CONSIDERED THE FRONTIER WITH THE COMMUNISTS TO BE THE MIDDLE OF THE ATLANTIC INSTEAD OF BERLIN." AZOREAN DEPUTY MOTA AMARAL THOUGH THE AZOREANS WOULD BE SATISFIED WITH SUBSTANTIAL AUTONOMY NOW, BUT THAT OVER A PERIOD OF FIVE YEARS THE ISLANDS WOULD MOVE TOWARD INDEPENDENCE.

4. ANGOLA: PRIME MINISTER PINHEIRO DE AZEVEDO SAID HE THOUGHT THE SOVIET OBJECTIVE IN SOUTHERN AFRICA WAS NOT JUST ANGOLA BUT A BELT CUTTING ACROSS AFRICA. THE NEXT DRIVE WOULD BE INTO ZAMBIA AND NAMIBIA. THE ONLY HOPE WAS FOR THE US SOMEHOW TO OBLIGE THE SOVIETS TO WITHDRAW FROM THEIR AFRICAN ADVENTURE. SA CARNEIRO WAS OUTSTPOKENLY CRITICAL OF THE US CONGRESS AND ITS ABDICATION OF WORLD LEADERSHIP RESPONSIBILITIES. HE TOLD THE SENATOR THAT US WITHDRAWAL FROM ANGOLA WAS SENDING A SIGNAL TO THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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EUROPEANS THAT THE US WAS NO LONGER PREPARED TO LEAD THE DEFENSE AGAINST SOVIET IMPERIALISM. SECRETARY OF STATE MEDEIROS FERREIRA SAID GOP HAD BEEN UNDER GREAT PRESSURE TO RECOGNIZE THE MPLA. THE FEELING HERE WAS THAT THE US CONGRESS HAD LEFT THE INITIATIVE OF INTERVENTION TO THE USSR, AND THIS HAD DEMORALIZED THE FORCES WORKING FOR A NEUTRAL ANGOLA. HIS PERSONAL OPINION WAS THAT GOP RECOGNITION OF MPLA AS LONG AS THE USSR AND THE CUBANS WERE

PRESENT WOULD BE A DEFEAT FOR THE CONCEPT OF NONALIGNMENT.  
SOARES SAID THE SOCIALISTS CONTINUED TO OPPOSE RECOGNITION  
BUT THAT "AFTER ALL, THE MPLA IS WINNING." CARLUCCI

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